UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/451,870	12/01/1999	MASAMICHI ITO	862.3155	9611

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EXAMINER
MA, JOHNNY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/451,870	ITO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Johnny Ma	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 April 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**　　2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14,16-19 and 21-96* is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) *1-11 and 23-96* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *12-14,16-19,21 and 22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☐ All　b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date *5/26/05*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-14, 16-19, 21, and 22 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 12-14, 16-19, and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (US 6,567,427 B1) in further view of Rajan (US 2001/0000962

A1) and Deniau et al. (US 2001/0052856 A1).

As to claim 12, note the Suzuki et al. reference discloses an image signal multiplexing

apparatus and methods, image signal demultiplexing apparatus and methods, and transmission

media. The claimed "a receiver, arranged to receive a bitstream" is met by user terminal (Suzuki

14:40-46) that receives a multiplexed bitstream (Suzuki 15:46-51). The claimed "wherein the bit

stream is multiplexed image data encoded by MPEG 4, image data and/or sound data encoded by

another coding format" is met by the disclosed multiplexed bitstream FS (Suzuki 14:16-20)

noting "the MPEG4 scheme is employed for an encoding and decoding scheme" (Suzuki 13:63-

67) and "[e]ach of the decoders 207-1 to 207-n decodes an associated bitstream based on a

predetermined decoding method corresponding to the encoding, and outputs a video or audio

signal to the reconstruction circuit 209 (column 16, lines 21-24), the format of the bitstream may

be MPEG2 video or the like (column 20, lines 43-50). Thus the Suzuki et al. reference discloses

a multiplexed bit stream comprising MPEG 4 and MPEG 2 bit streams, wherein it is inherent

that such data be received for decoding. The claimed "a first decoder, arranged to decode the

image data encoded by MPEG 4" is met by demultiplexer circuit 205, syntax analysis circuit

206/208 and decoders as illustrated in Figure 1, wherein description is made assuming the

MPEG4 scheme is employed for an encoding and decoding scheme (column 13, lines 62-67).

The claimed "a second decoder, arranged to decode the image data and/or sound data encoded by

the other coding scheme" is met by "[e]ach of the decoders 207-1 to 207-n decodes an associated

bitstream based on a predetermined decoding method corresponding to the encoding, and outputs

a video or audio signal to the reconstruction circuit 209 (column 16, lines 21-24) and "[t]he

syntax analysis circuit 206 identifies the type and the number of required decoders to supply

required decoders 207-1 to 207-n with the respective bitstreams ES1-Esn (column 16, lines 3-6)

wherein the format of the bitstream may be MPEG2 video or the like (column 20, lines 43-50).

The claimed "a receiver, arranged to receive image data encoded by MPEG 4, and image data

and/or sound data encoded by another coding format" is met by the decoding of MPEG 4 and

MPEG-2 data as discussed above. However, the Suzuki et al. reference does not specifically

disclose the use of system data (additional data as defined in Applicant's specification).

Now note the Rajan reference that discloses the claimed "system data" wherein "[t]he coded

elementary content streams (comprising video, audio, graphics, text [system data], etc.) are

routed to their respective decoders according to the information contained in the received

descriptors" (Rajan [0051]). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Suzuki et al. A/V

bit streams with the Rajan bit streams including system data for the purpose of providing an

enriched presentation to the user wherein messages and text may also be displayed to a system

user. Further note, that the Suzuki et al. and Rajan combination discloses a multiplexed bit

stream including system data and a corresponding decoder, as discussed above. However, the

Suzuki et al. and Rajan reference does not specifically teach a character generator. Now note the

Deniau et al. reference that discloses a receiver in a cyclic packet data transmission system. The

claimed "a character generator, arranged to generate character data" is met by the disclosed

character generator for generating a video signal for display (Deniau [0042]). Therefore, the

examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify the Suzuki et al. and Rajan combination teaching the use of

system data and a corresponding decoder with the Deniau et al. character generator for the

purpose of providing a means for displaying the system data while conserving the use of

bandwidth, i.e. alleviating the need to transfer the full image of the text. The claimed "for

display in accordance with the received system data" is met by the Suzuki et al., Rajan, and

Deniau et al. combination as discussed above wherein the character data is generated according

to the received system data bitstream. However, the Suzuki reference is silent as to the use of a

setter. The Rajan reference discloses a terminal for composing and presenting MPEG-4 video

programs wherein "...the scene description information is coded into a binary format known as

BIFS (Binary Format for Scene). This BIFS data is packetized and multiplexed at a transmission

site, such as a cable and or satellite television headend, or a server in a computer network, before

being sent over a communication channel to a terminal 100" (Rajan [0042]). The claimed

"setter, arranged to set a layout of images represented by a plurality of image data, which are

decoded by said first and second decoders, and the generated character data" is met by "[t]he

terminal manager 110 passes the user input events to the composition engine 120 for appropriate

handling. For example, a user may enter commands to reposition or change the attributes of

certain objects within the scene graph" (Rajan [0068]) wherein the composition engine maintains

and updates a scene graph of the current objects for display (Rajan [0078]) including a scene

graph for reproduction of objects for display (Rajan [0078]). Therefore, the examiner submits

that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to modify (if necessary) the Suzuki et al. MPEG 4 presentation with the Rajan setter for the

purpose of allowing a user to customize display of programming and user interactivity with such

programming wherein the MPEG-4 communication standard allows a user to interact with video

and audio objects within a scene, whether they are from conventional sources, such as moving

video, or from synthetic (computer generated) sources (Rajan [0004]). The claimed "in

accordance with the coding formats of the received image and/or sound data" is met by the

Suzuki and Rajan combination wherein objects may be encoded in various formats requiring

different decoding means as set forth above. The claimed "a synthesizer, arranged to synthesize

the plurality of image data and/or sound data decoded by said first and second decoders and the

generated character data, in accordance with the layout" is met by the Suzuki et al., Rajan, and

Deniau et al. combination as discussed above wherein "reconstruction circuit 209 includes a

synthesizer circuit 252 such that an image signal produced by the synthesizer circuit 252 is

supplied to a display 251 for display (column 16, lines 42-50) wherein elementary streams

comprise encoded audio and video streams (column 13, lines 56-59) and the Suzuki et al., Rajan,

and Deniau et al. combination as discussed above wherein bit streams include audio, video, and system data, synthesized in accordance with user specified layouts.

As to claim 13, the claimed "wherein said second decoder decodes image data and/or sound data encoded by MPEG 2," please see rejection of claim1 wherein the format of the bitstream may be MPEG2 video or the like (column 20, lines 43-50).

As to claim 14, the claimed "further comprising a reproducer arranged to reproduce the image data and/or sound data synthesized by said synthesizer" is met by "reconstruction circuit 209 includes a synthesizer circuit 252 such that an image signal produced by the synthesizer circuit 252 is supplied to a display 251 for display (column 16, lines 42-50) wherein elementary streams comprise encoded audio and video streams (column 13, lines 56-59).

As to claim 16, the claimed "further comprising a memory for storing the layout set by said setter" is met by that discussed in the rejection of claim 12 wherein user modifies a scene graph that is maintained on a terminal for presentation of programming, the storing in memory of such information is inherent to the maintaining of the scene graph for composition purposes. The claimed "in correspondence with information related to a broadcast program received by said receiver" is also met by that discussed in the rejection of claim 12 wherein the stored scene graph information corresponds to broadcasted video programming as evidenced by program transmission from a cable and or satellite television headend (Rajan [0042]).

As to claims 17-19 and 21, please see the rejections of claims 12-14 and 16 respectively.

As to claim 22, please see rejection of claim 12. Also note the Suzuki et al. reference discloses an image signal multiplexing apparatus and methods, image signal demultiplexing

apparatus and methods, and transmission media wherein the disclosed processing may be implemented in software or hardware (column 22, lines 15-24).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnny Ma whose telephone number is (571) 272-7351. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jm

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PRIMARY EXAMINER